

AGENDA ITEM VI B 2

PROGRESS REPORT ON A CONDITIONALLY APPROVED CENTER

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- NEW ORLEANS**

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE CENTER

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting on October 24, 2002, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

One-year, conditional approval is granted for the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, effective immediately. As required by Board of Regents Academic Affairs Guidelines: Proposed New Centers, Institutes, and Other Academic/Research Units, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a proposal for full approval of the Center by October 1, 2003. If this proposal is not forthcoming by this date, the Board of Regents shall automatically reexamine the need for this Center.

In a proposal received October 17, 2003, the Health Sciences Center has requested two additional years of conditional approval of the IBD Center. Additional information was requested by the staff and received November 3, 2003.

As issues of need, appropriateness to role, scope and mission of the institution, adequacy of facilities and so forth were adequately addressed by LSUHSC in its initial request for conditional approval of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center, the staff analysis and summary which follow focus on other unresolved matters.

STAFF SUMMARY

A. Implementation of Center Goals

After one year, the IBD Center states that many of its initial goals have been accomplished.

1. Establishment of a Endowed Chair

An endowed chair in IBD research has been established with a \$600,000 gift from the T.G. Solomon family, matched by \$400,000 from the BoR. A search is currently underway to identify appropriately credentialed candidates for the position. The Center

anticipates that the interview process will begin early in 2004 and hope to have the position filled by 2005. Dr. John Udall serves as the interim Acting Director of the Center.

2. Institute Collaborative Research Programs

Several research projects examine the etiology and treatment of IBD. Two clinical care trials led by Dr. John Udall assess the safety and efficacy of a therapy at the forefront for treating Crohn's disease as well as the long term affects of the drug study on participants health and welfare. A third study seeks to establish a Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease database at LSUHSC, which is part of the National Pediatric Gastroenterology Consortium. The sharing of data will enable pediatric gastroenterologists to better understand the course of Crohn's disease thereby facilitating optimum treatment. In addition, Dr. Elizabeth Mannick has undertaken research to identify genes associated with IBD, specifically Crohn's disease. This investigation is supported by a research associate and coordinator, both part time, as well as a full time statistician.

3. Patient Treatment

Professionals in GI/Nutrition, a psychologist, a dietician, a special procedures group trained to provide endoscopic procedures compose a team which provides excellent patient care and therapy. LSUHSC/Children's Hospital gastroenterologists see patients at clinics throughout the state.

4. IBD Education/Legislation

Knowledge of IBD enables patients and their families to better participate in their care. The IBD Center has established an ongoing relationship with the Louisiana chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA). Two educational programs have been held in the Baton Rouge area. The Center coordinator meets with newly diagnosed patients to provide education and support services.

The Center seeks to influence the direction of IBD research and care on a broad level. Dr. Udall recently participated in the CCFA's First National IBD Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. During "IBD Day on the Hill", advocates from around the nation lobbied legislators in support of the IBD Act (S491), which seeks to expand funding for research for IBD.

B. Center Budget

Identification of prospective donors continues. Collective support of at least \$500,000 for Center research endeavors, including additional space and faculty involvement, should be

available to the Center within two years. The IBD Center is currently in the process of establishing a group of community advisors, which will meet 3-5 times per year to help with fundraising and serve as community advocates for the Center.

The presence of an appropriately qualified individual in the T.G. and Doris Solomon Endowed Chair for the study of Crohn's Disease and Related Disorders should place the Center at the forefront of IBD research. It is possible that this individual will bring extramural dollars to the Center and enhance its ability to attract external funding.

A projection of income and expenses for the second and third years of the IBD Center follows.

Revenue			Year 2	Year 3
Dean's Office Funds			\$100,000	\$110,886
Departmental Funds			31,067	32,805
LSUHSC Foundation Funds			11,252	
Total Funds Available			\$ 142,319	\$143,691
Expenses				
Personnel	Annual salary	% Effort		
Acting Director	120,000	10%	12,000	12,000
Transl. Research Dir	83,461	25%	20,865	20,865
Research Assoc	35,000	10%	3,500	3,500
Coordinator	25,000	25%	6,250	6,250
Admin Asst	26,400	25%	6,600	6,798
Statistician	30,000	100%	30,000	30,900
Fringe benefits @ 23%			19,804	20,078
Genomics Lab Fees			24,000	24,000
Supplies			15,000	15,000
Services			1,000	1,000
Public Relations			1,500	1,500
Sample Collection			1,800	1,008
Total Operating Expenses			\$ 142,319	\$ 143,691

STAFF ANALYSIS

The IBD Center has made significant progress toward achieving its stated goals, despite the absence of an IBD specialist in the Solomon Endowed Chair. However, the Center is still internally supported; consequently, the LSUHSC has requested an additional 2 years of conditional approval. The Center has indicated that this extension will allow the solidification of fund-raising efforts as well as the expansion of its research and educational endeavors while it continues to provide excellent care for IBD patients. It is hoped that attracting a nationally recognized leader in IBD research for the Solomon Endowed Chair will enable the Center to become totally self-sustaining.

The staff is cognizant of the significant efforts required to attract and relocate a scientist heavily involved in IBD research to the LSUHSC, yet the need for an appropriate individual to lead the Center is paramount to the achievement of envisioned scope of IBD activities. Hence, rather than grant a two-year extension at this time, the staff would recommend instead that a subsequent report describing efforts of the LSUHSC to hire a Center Director and further progress toward meeting Center goals be required by December 1, 2004. Upon receipt of this subsequent report, the staff should be better able to determine whether the IBD Center has realistic expectations and the long-term potential for achieving them.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee extend conditional approval for the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans through December 1, 2004. By that date, the Center shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a progress report addressing concerns cited in the staff summary above. Thereafter, the Board of Regents shall reexamine the continued need for this Center.